

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic apparatus comprising:

- an input means having character-input keys assigned to a matrix configuration wherein said character-input keys having different vertical and horizontal widths; the longitudinal axes of said character-input keys being tilted in a top view; said character-input keys having first and second contacts to input different characters; said first and second contacts being provided on first and second ends of said character-input keys in the longitudinal direction; and

- a display means for displaying the characters input by said character-input keys of said input means.

2. The electronic apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said character-input keys are arranged in such a manner that the longitudinal axes of said character-input keys is tilted from northeast to southwest.

3. The electronic apparatus as set forth in Claims 1 or 2 wherein said characters assigned to each of said ends of said character-input keys are phonetic letters.

4. The electronic apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 having a Latin letter-Japanese character conversion means for converting the words expressed by using phonetic letters, which are entered by said character-input keys, into Japanese words.

5. The electronic apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1-4 wherein said electronic apparatus comprises third contacts that are capable of contacting said first contacts and said second contacts provided on said first and said second ends of said character-input keys; and third characters different from those assigned to said first and second ends are assigned to the center of said character-input keys wherein said first contacts and said second contacts touch said third contacts, thereby inputting said third characters assigned to the center of said character-input keys.

6. The electronic apparatus as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said characters allocated to the center of said character input keys are numerals.

7. The electronic apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1-6 wherein said electronic apparatus is of a hand-held type.